

What is claimed is:

1. An image display device that has an authentication/decryption unit for authenticating and
5 decrypting encrypted video signals and a display for displaying video signals thereon, said image display device comprising:

open-condition detecting means for detecting whether a cabinet of said image display device is opened;

10 storing means for storing one of a first flag indicating that an authentication operation of said authentication/decryption unit is enabled and a second flag indicating that the authentication operation of said authentication/decryption unit is disabled;

15 flag writing means for writing said second flag into said storing means when said open-condition detecting means detects that said cabinet is opened;

20 enabling/disabling control means for controlling enabling/disabling of the authentication operation of said authentication/decryption unit according to the flag stored in said storing means;

first display control means for putting said display in a first state by displaying the video signals decrypted from the encrypted video signals when the flag stored in said storing means is the first flag; and

25 second display control means for putting said display in a second state, which is different from the first state, when the flag stored in said storing means is the second flag.

30 2. The image display device according to claim 1, further comprising hidden command entering means for entering a hidden command for returning the authentication operation of said authentication/decryption unit to an enabled state by causing said flag writing means to write said first flag into said storing means in which said second flag is stored.

35

3. The image display device according to claim 1, further

comprising an independent power that supplies power to said open-condition detecting means, said storing means, and said flag writing means to allow said open-condition detecting means, said storing means, and said flag writing means to continue operation even when power normally supplied to said image display device is turned off.

4. The image display device according to claim 2, further comprising an independent power that supplies power to said open-condition detecting means, said storing means, and said flag writing means to allow said open-condition detecting means, said storing means, and said flag writing means to continue operation even when power normally supplied to said image display device is turned off.

5. An image display device that has an authentication/decryption unit for authenticating and decrypting encrypted video signals and a display for displaying video signals thereon, said image display device comprising:
detecting means for detecting that there is a possibility that video signals, decrypted from the encrypted video signals by said authentication/decryption unit, will be taken out of said image display device;

storing means for storing one of a first flag indicating that an authentication operation of said authentication/decryption unit is enabled and a second flag indicating that the authentication operation of said authentication/decryption unit is disabled;

flag writing means for writing said second flag into said storing means when said detecting means detects that there is a possibility that the video signals decrypted from the encrypted video signals will be taken out of said image display device;

enabling/disabling control means for controlling enabling/disabling of the authentication operation of said authentication/decryption unit according to the flag stored

in said storing means;

first display control means for putting said display
in a first state by displaying the video signals decrypted
from the encrypted video signals when the flag stored in said
5 storing means is the first flag; and

second display control means for putting said display
in a second state, which is different from the first state,
when the flag stored in said storing means is the second flag.

10 6. The image display device according to claim 5, further
comprising hidden command entering means for entering a hidden
command for returning the authentication operation of said
authentication/decryption unit to an enabled state by causing
said flag writing means to write said first flag into said
15 storing means in which said second flag is stored.

20 7. The image display device according to claim 5, further
comprising an independent power that supplies power to said
detecting means, said storing means, and said flag writing
means to allow said detecting means, said storing means, and
said flag writing means to continue operation even when power
normally supplied to said image display device is turned off.

25 8. The image display device according to claim 6, further
comprising an independent power that supplies power to said
detecting means, said storing means, and said flag writing
means to allow said detecting means, said storing means, and
said flag writing means to continue operation even when power
normally supplied to said image display device is turned off.

30